



JESSICA  
MCBRIDE

## When will John Doe be Job Done?

### Milwaukee County probe shows no sign of stopping

Our Constitution affords us the right of due process as protection against the potential tyranny of unchecked power from the government.

The due process language in the American Constitution derived from a clause in the English Magna Carta, which read, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land."

The Magna Carta was supposed to abridge the power of kings. With this principle in mind, we should all start raising questions about the never-ending John Doe investigation that is STILL, yes, STILL, going on in Milwaukee County.

Remember that? The supposedly secret but not-secret John Doe investigation into people associated with Scott Walker's administration? Count me among those who thought that, maybe, DA John Chisholm just didn't want to make a decision, either way, that could be perceived as influencing the recall election.

Well, the recall election is over. Long ago. And still no word out of the Milwaukee County courthouse about a nonsecret investigation that had already been going on for two years and seems to have run far afield from its original intent.

It's just not right. At some point, and I'd say we're here or pretty darn close to it, the district attorney should you-know-what or get off the pot. Charge people or clear them. It's grossly unfair for people to have the specter of never-ending criminal investigation hanging over their heads like some kind of prosecutorial Damocles' sword.

John Does are supposed to be secret for a reason. They are but prosecutorial tools that are used when prosecutors don't have enough evidence to charge but want to compel people to testify under oath about circumstances at hand. They are secret because the prosecutor has not yet met even enough burden of proof to lodge an official AND PUBLIC accusation.

Yet, as we all know, individuals have been named here via secret leaks to the news media as targets of the investigation. These individuals include but are not limited to the governor. To some degree, my concern is far less here for Walker's reputation. Judging from his turn at the Republican National Convention, Walker is doing just fine. Yet, it's disturbing that a top prosecutor from one political party can launch a never-ending nonsecret investigation with our tax dollars into a governor from another political party without having to account for it, at least for this long. If Walker's being investigated at all, that's also not clear.

However, I have greater concern about the unfairness accorded to the other Walker associates without the governor's political power who have been caught up in this investigatory fishing net and whose names have been printed by an irresponsible press. They deserve some closure here. They deserve to be cleared or charged. If the DA can't make the case at this point, I'd say he needs to start explaining why.

I get that there are rules about what a DA can say about a John Doe, but it doesn't seem like the system has been terribly concerned about the leaks. And I get that there's a judge ostensibly in charge of all of this, and I also get that we don't know what everyone else knows or where the investigation is heading or not heading. I am just saying that it's been a very long time, and maybe there should be some time limits on John Does. The rest of us have pretty much moved on from the John Doe story (it seems like such old news, doesn't it?) but for those whose careers and freedom are imperiled (ostensibly) by this potentially political endless fishing expedition, it must be another thing altogether.

Let's just say that the DA's handling of the Johnny Thomas case hasn't exactly inspired confidence. And, I am a person who has generally respected Chisholm. I've always found him to be a straight shooter. That's all the more reason why he needs to do the right thing here.

The Thomas case was troubling, not just because of Thomas' acquittal, but because of the DA's authorization of the sting in the first place. I'm not going to excoriate the guy who made the complaint without evidence of nefariousness not yet presented; maybe he did so with good intentions. It was up to the DA to do a fair and crucial read of the evidence. It seems that the DA's office in the Thomas case was attempting to use the half-baked sting to pressure Thomas to sing on other members of the County Board; the entire Thomas debacle was part of John Doe proceedings.

It's tempting to wonder whether Chisholm's office has similar motivations for dragging out the John Doe and for keeping the pressure of potential charges and public embarrassment on the front burner against the governor's associates.

Enough is enough.

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## Labor, today

By HILDA L. SOLIS  
U.S. Secretary of Labor

For many in Wisconsin and across the country, Labor Day symbolizes the end of summer, back-to-school sales and a fun three-day weekend. But it's more than that for me.

This is my fourth Labor Day as the nation's labor secretary and the U.S. Department of Labor's 99th. I've come to realize that, throughout the history of this vitally important federal agency, Labor Day is and always will be every day.

Across the country and, indeed, in Wisconsin, the Labor Department touches families and lives from infancy to retirement. We ensure that working parents can care for newborns under the Family and Medical Leave Act. We're also the folks who protect your pensions. Health and safety in the workplace? That's us. A paycheck that just doesn't add up? We are your first call. Job training after a layoff, protecting civilian jobs for service members returning stateside, guarding against discrimination at companies that do work for the federal government? That's us, too.

We operate the Milwaukee Job Corps Center and the Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center in Laona (Forest County) along with 120 others across the country; making us one of the largest providers of education and training for at-risk youth. All that, and so much more, is the bread and butter of the Department of Labor.

For decades, our employees, not just in Washington, D.C., but the nearly 120 here in Wisconsin have worked behind the scenes, as mine inspectors, wage-and-hour investigators, statisticians, benefit advisors, workers' compensation clerks and policy planners.

And in so many instances, we've been ahead of the times. When world conflicts heated up, the Labor Department ensured war-time production of battleships ahead of schedule. And in the 1920s, long before there was a civil rights movement or something called "the glass ceiling," our Women's Bureau — the only federal agency mandated to represent the needs of wage-earning women — investigated and reported on the status of female African-American workers.

Speaking of glass ceilings: The first woman to serve in a president's cabinet was Labor Secretary Frances Perkins. She was the mastermind behind much of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" during the Great Depression. She wrote the Social Security Act, created Unemployment Insurance, legalized a minimum wage and overtime protections, and wove the nation's social safety net on which millions of workers still rely.

Today, our work is even more critical, and more evident, right here in Wisconsin. Locally, our impact has been real and significant. In the past year alone, we have recovered more than \$1.35 million in back wages to over 4,000 workers in the state. Our actions achieved nearly \$5 million in monetary results for employee benefit plans, such as 401(k)s, helping over 40,000 plan participants. That's money they rightfully earned, but were denied. And that's money that goes right back into the Wisconsin economy.

Since 1882, when it was first cele-

### Employment tips

On Labor Day 2012 and every day, one of my top priorities is to help those looking for work get the training they need for good-paying jobs.

By 2020, 17 of the 30 fastest-growing occupations will require a postsecondary certificate or degree. In fact, employers are actively looking to fill nearly 4 million job openings in America right now. Getting the skills employers want and need are critical to a successful career.

Here are a few tips:

■ Get started! Your first step is to check out your local American Job Center. These nearly 3,000 "one-stop-shops" are part of a nationwide network where you can work with experts to update your resume, strengthen interview skills and explore current job openings. Washington County Workforce Development Center is located at 2200 Green Tree Road, West Bend, WI, 53090 and its phone number is 335-5300. For more information or to find the Job Center closest to you, please visit CareerOneStop.org.

■ Looking for a fresh start? Check out MySkillsMyFuture.org to discover different careers that build off of your existing skills, connect you to free training programs and even find employers in your area looking to hire. The site also shows how much different jobs pay near you or across the country, as well as the additional skills you'll need to succeed.

■ Not sure what career is right for you? Visit MyNextMove.org to find the job that's the perfect fit. Fill out a questionnaire listing your interests and abilities, and get suggestions for different employment paths in more than 900 careers. This site will also identify local apprenticeship and certificate programs to help you train and get a job in high-growth industries.

■ Are you a veteran? "My Next Move for Vets" is designed just for you. Enter your military occupation code and the site matches your military skills to civilian jobs. If you're a post-9/11 era veteran, you can also download a Veterans Gold Card at DOL.gov/VETS to get specialized services from your local American Job Center.

■ Don't have Internet access at home? We've partnered with local libraries all around the country to make sure that you always have a place to log on to our online resources. Most American Job Centers offer free access for those looking for a job, too.

■ Have more questions? Call us. You can reach our toll-free helpline at (866) 4-USA-DOL for the most up to date resources. Nearly 160,000 people do it each month. And, yes, we speak Spanish.

The U.S. Department of Labor has other resources to help you find a first job, new job or different career. And our services are free. Happy Labor Day!

— Hilda L. Solis,  
U.S. secretary of labor

brated in New York City, and 1894, when it became a federal holiday, the first Monday in September has been set aside to honor and celebrate the American worker. We call it Labor Day, and its message is simple: The great American worker is what makes America great.



WARING  
FINCKE

## Time to turn conservative

### Time for bonding over seasonal bounty

This time of the year reminds me to be conservative. I forget how great it feels to be conservative. I find it not difficult at all to go back to my conservative roots.

For those looking for a political transformation from me to the current "smaller government, no new taxes and less government spending" brand of conservatism, don't hold your breath. My kind of conservatism runs to the personal and has a lot to do with food.

When our kids were younger with hollow legs, we were "back to the landers" and learned to grow our own vegetables. We even raised chickens for the eggs and meat, until the raccoons or a fox did them in. We bought meat from local butchers. All of it got processed, canned or frozen to feed us through the winter and spring until the next harvest. We gardened with other families and shared what we could not use with others.

Now we grow less and don't need to buy in bulk, but still have a plot in the backyard for herbs and experiments and, for the past three years, we've enjoyed a larger plot in the Master Gardener Community Garden in West Bend. This is the time harvest and processing begins.

My wife and I just put up frozen peaches we purchased from the community's farmer's market. It was an afternoon of great conversations and laughing. We have enough for peach cobbles and pies for the upcoming holidays and beyond in the freezer. It's very satisfying to put them up. It will be again when they are baked and consumed.

Tomatoes are next. We'll get a late start this year because of the drought. Our daughter and her husband want to learn the secret to our traditional tomato sauce, so Gretchen and I will spend the Labor Day weekend at their house helping them can 30 or so quarts of the wonderful stuff. We'll can our own 50 quarts after the long weekend with kids and grandkids.

We get our tomatoes from Witte's now and supplement with some of our own from our garden. The carrots, green peppers and onions come from local organic farmers who bring them to our farmers market. Our sauce is generic so it can be easily modified for use on spaghetti or pizza or made into a hearty winter chili. We also use it on chicken and in other dishes. The house smells wonderfully warm with the homegrown garlic, basil and oregano wafting from the simmering tomatoes while we process and again when we eat.

We turn cherry tomatoes into something I branded "tomaisins." Poke a small hole in the little guys and run them through a food dehydrator. What's left is a small dried tomato, looks like a large raisin that we store in Mason jars. When you need a burst of tomato flavor in a dish or soup, all you have to do is grab a hand full of "tomaisins" and throw them in the pot. Perfect.

Our season will end with picking and drying the heritage beans we grow in our community garden plot. We have several varieties that dry on their stalks then get removed from the shells and dried further on screens in the sun. These go into labeled Mason jars on the kitchen counters and pantry shelves for use in stews and crock-pot dishes with lamb and pork. They look great as the colors span the harvest hues and the names tell stories of farmers past.

The time we spend putting up these goodies brings us together and provides the opportunity to remember good times past and plan more for the future. Sharing the old skills with the next in line is a bonus and helps ensure the familiar tastes when we won't be able to can or freeze any longer.

This is how we conserve the bounty we enjoy for the future and helps fortify the body and spirit for the election season now upon us. We can debate the size and role of government with our friends and neighbors more easily over homegrown and home-processed food that is both good and good for us.

All are welcome at the harvest table for the discussions.

*(Waring R. Fincke practices law and politics in the town of Barton and is vice chair of the Washington County Democratic Party.)*

### TOWRITE

The Daily News welcomes letters to the editor. We require that letters be no more than 300 words in length, legibly written or typed, that the author sign the letter and that a telephone number and address be included where the author can be reached. Only letters including the name of the writer will be published. Letter writers are limited to one letter per month. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel and content in poor taste. Letters should be mailed to 100 S. Sixth Ave., West Bend 53095, faxed to 262-338-1984 or e-mailed to dmuckelbauer@conley.net.com.

### Today's Inspiration

*"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."*

— Booker T. Washington